

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear CROSSTALK Editor,

The July/August 2009 article *Why Software Requirements Traceability Remains a Challenge* was spot-on in regards to the multiple difficulties faced in the utilization of the requirements traceability in practice.

Andrew Kannenberg and Dr. Hossein Saiedian have correctly identified the burden that the production of this artifact puts on project teams with no discernible benefits to the individuals or to the teams. No amount of training and policy can change that.

One creates an artifact in order to use it. I have not seen, in 18 years of software development, anyone actually using the requirements traceability matrix or other incarnations thereof.

For requirements traceability to be useful, all the tools used in the software development value chain ought to be able to produce or consume requirements traceability data in a transparent manner. That is, the requirements management tools, the modeling tools, the integrated development environments, the testing tools, the configuration management tools, and the project management tools must be able to support the tracing of the same (software) requirement through the life cycle of the system being built or maintained transparently and easily.

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